

Whether coordinating Navy Public Affairs efforts following the attacks of September 11th, communicating the Navy's role in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan and the Philippines and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, or discussing Navy's support for homeland defense and Operation NOBLE EAGLE, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli orchestrated unprecedented media access to naval information and operations giving American and international audiences a clear picture of the readiness, dedication and contributions our Sailors made to national security.

During his tenure as CHINFO, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli also demonstrated unparalleled expertise in all facets of Navy Public Affairs community management; active duty and reserve, officer, enlisted, and civilian alike. His knowledge of public affairs requirements across the spectrum of military operations, combined with his keen sense of an individual's strengths, ensured the right person was sent to the right job at the right time. Joint commanders augmenting their public affairs staffs during military operations routinely sought Rear Admiral Pietropaoli's well trained public affairs specialists. He has led the consolidation effort over various enlisted ratings into the public affairs family of ratings, ensuring better career management for all those who work in the public affairs arena. He has also championed efforts by the Secretary of the Navy to study and implement a civilian community management plan, becoming the sponsor for those in the public affairs and related series.

There is no question that Rear Admiral Pietropaoli is the top communications professional in the U.S. military today. His unparalleled leadership and zeal for excellence will have a positive impact on the Navy Public Affairs Community for decades. He will be missed.

In a Navy where many people come and go, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli is a symbol of commitment and dedication from which many of us could learn. I congratulate him on his retirement and thank him for his nearly three decades of honorable service to the Navy and country.

On behalf of the U.S. Congress, I offer my congratulations to Rear Admiral Pietropaoli and wish him the best of luck as he and his wife, Dawn, and their two sons, Daniel and Matthew, begin this new and exciting chapter of their lives. Fair winds and following seas!

#### INTRODUCTION OF TWO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION BILLS, THE PUBLIC PRIVATE VOCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP ACT AND THE EXCELLENCE IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ACT

**HON. RICHARD W. POMBO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 16, 2003*

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce two bills promoting public-private partnerships in the interest of improving vocational education.

Vocational education is an extremely important component of secondary education for millions of students. It is too often neglected at

the state level and does not receive adequate funding or attention.

Many students do not go onto an undergraduate university for their post-secondary education. Only about 40% of high school students who pursue post secondary education enroll in a baccalaureate (college) program. One third (over 5 million people) enroll in a vocational education (sub-baccalaureate) program.

We should acknowledge that not everyone chooses to go to an academic four year university. For many of these students, our current educational system is failing them.

There are many good paying jobs available to students interested in vocational training, but not enough students are being prepared for these types of jobs.

However, we do have the ability to encourage more schools and their students to participate in vocational education. We can leverage the involvement of the private sector. We can get businesses involved with the education of the skilled workers of tomorrow by helping them train the students of today. To accomplish this I am introducing two vocational education bills today.

The first bill, the Public Private Vocational Partnership Act, establishes a tax credit for companies that donate equipment and other resources that can be used for vocational training. It also establishes a tax credit for the hiring of full time students who want to work as interns in fields relating to vocational education.

The second bill, the Excellence in Vocational Education Act, creates a new competitive grant program where schools can seek out federal funding to match private sector contributions for vocational education projects. The goal is to increase students' participation and achievement in vocational education. The money will also be used to strengthen teachers' understanding of, and competency in, vocational education and practical application of it.

Both bills will encourage schools and the private sector to work together to give students practical training for quality jobs.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting these important proposals.

#### FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2004 AND 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2003*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 1950) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for the fiscal years 2004 and 2005, to authorize appropriations under the Arms Export Control Act and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for security assistance for fiscal years 2004 and 2005, and for other purposes.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this very harmful amendment.

In the early 1990s, because of concerns about United Nations' operations and the lack of reforms by that body, the United States began withholding its payments to the UN and fell into arrears. We subsequently debated this issue for years, and, in November 1999, Congress and the Administration finally agreed on a plan to repay our longstanding debt to the UN in exchange for significant reforms by the world body.

This agreement conditioned U.S. payments of \$819 million on substantial reforms at the UN. In return for the United States making good on its commitment, the UN reduced our contributions to its regular budget from 25 to 20 percent, and to the peacekeeping budget from 31 to 25 percent. The UN also agreed to open up its financial books to the United States and to establish an office of an Inspector General at each of its program offices.

We've debated these issues, and this body has decided the United States should continue to be a member in good standing at the UN. This amendment would send us back to a debate settled more than three years ago.

Mr. Chairman, as the UN's single largest contributor, the United States is granted unparalleled power to craft the UN's agenda and budget. Our financial leadership truly gives us the ability to shape world events.

Countries all over the world are looking to the United States for leadership, yet if this amendment were to pass, what they would see is a very powerful and wealthy country refusing to live up to its international commitments. Why, as a nation, would we want to unnecessarily complicate our diplomatic efforts at a time when we need every ounce of leverage?

While we must continue examining its operations and recommending operational improvements, the United Nations deserves U.S. support as it continues to combat terrorism, promote economic growth and assist countries in moving towards democracy.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the King/Hayworth Amendment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 16, 2003*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: July 14, 2003, Rollcall vote 354, on agreeing to the Rehberg Amendment, I would have voted no. Rollcall vote 355, on agreeing to the Blumenauer Amendment, I would have voted no. Rollcall vote 356, on agreeing to the Hefley Amendment, I would have voted yea. Rollcall vote 357, on agreeing to the Ackerman Amendment, I would have voted no. Rollcall vote 358, on passage of H.R. 2673, I would have voted yea. Rollcall vote 359, on Motion to Instruct Conferees, I would have voted no. July 15, 2003, Rollcall vote 360, on agreeing to H. Res. 316, I would have voted yea. Rollcall vote 361, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended, H.R. 2330, I would have voted yea.